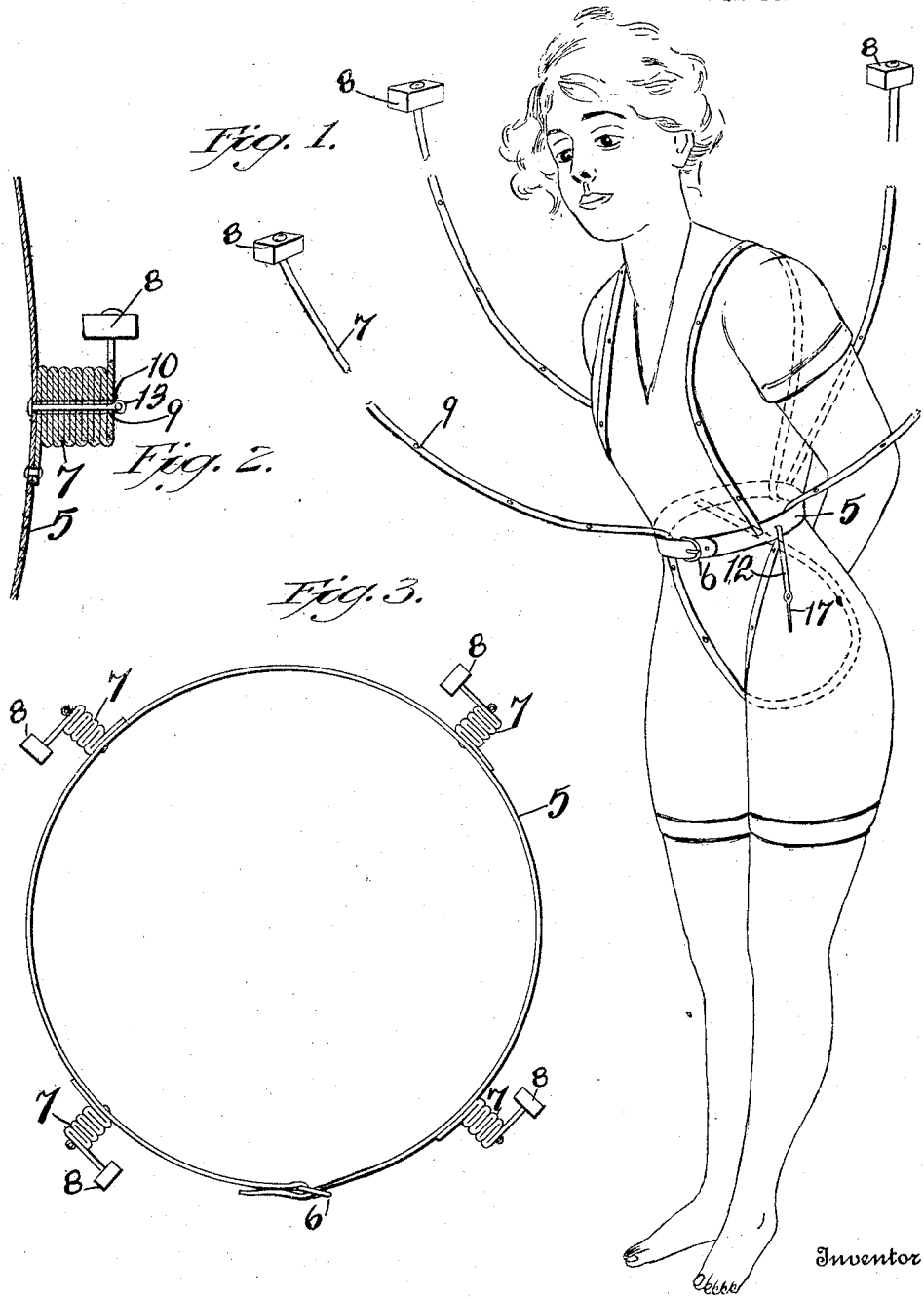


Patented Sept. 5, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

1,002,558.



Witnesses
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SWIMMING DEVICE.

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1,002,558.

Patented Sept. 5, 1911.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 2.

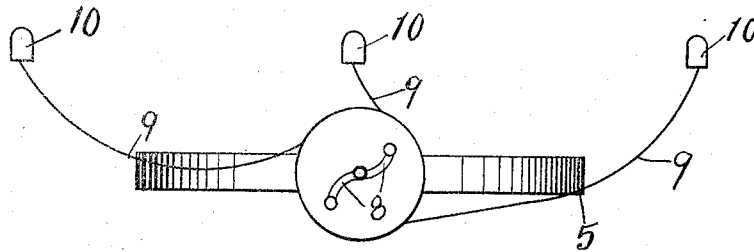


Fig. 4.

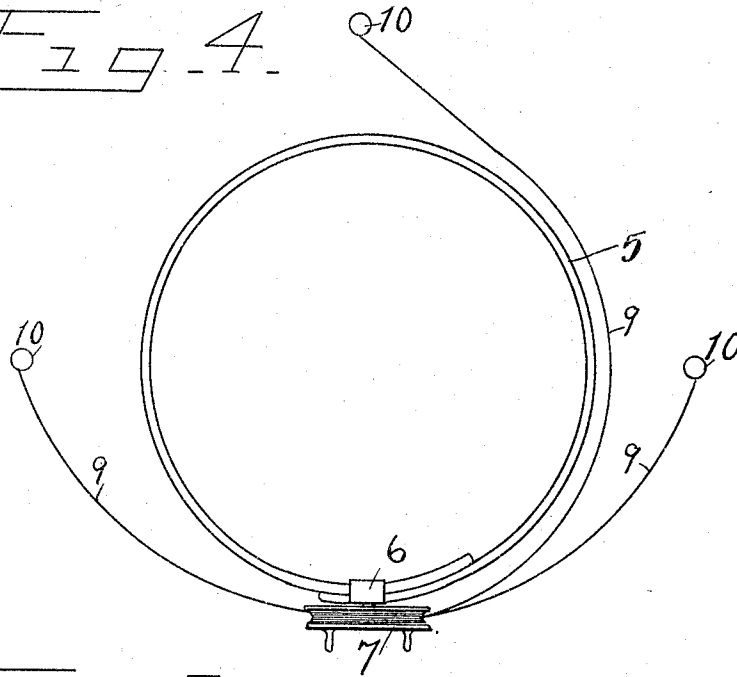


Fig. 5

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SWIMMING DEVICE.

1,002,558.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 5, 1911.

Application filed March 10, 1911. Serial No. 613,655.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, REGINA N. BRESSLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Swimming Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for the use of swimmers, the object of the invention being to provide such a device comprising a belt adapted to be secured about the body of a swimmer, said belt carrying a plurality of floats attached thereto, together with improved means for securing these cords to the belt and for holding them in close relation to said belt when not in use or while the swimmer is in very shallow water. These floats serve, when released, to aid in supporting the swimmer or aid in supporting persons learning to swim, or provide grasping means whereby if the wearer becomes exhausted, those persons going to his or her assistance may get hold of the swimmer without danger to themselves. Furthermore, these floats serve to indicate the position of a person's body if he sinks below the surface of the water, thereby rendering it possible in many cases to recover such body in time to resuscitate the partially drowned person by artificial respiration and other methods usually employed for this purpose.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the detailed description which now follows:

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a detail perspective view illustrating the manner of adjustment and position of the device upon the body, Fig. 2 is a detail sectional view through a portion of the belt, illustrating the method of securing the cords or tapes to which the floats are secured, Fig. 3 is a detail view of the belt illustrating a plurality of such cords or tapes secured thereto, Fig. 4 is a detail face view of a modified form of the device, and Fig. 5 is a detail plan view of such modified form.

Like numerals designate corresponding parts in all of the figures of the drawing.

Referring to the drawing and particularly to Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the numeral 5 designates a belt adapted to be secured about the body of the wearer and to be held in position by a buckle of the usual form, indicated at 6. A plurality of cords or tapes 7 having floats 8 attached to their ends, are connected to the belt, these tapes having openings 9 formed at intervals therein so that when folded back and forth upon themselves as indicated in Fig. 2, they may be secured in position upon studs 10. Pins 17 may be secured to the belt by means of straps 12 and when passed through eyelets 13 in the ends of the studs 10, prevent the accidental disengagement of the tapes 7 from said studs.

In use the wearer can simply have the belt placed around the waist with the folded tapes thereon and held in position by the pegs 17' and they may then be released and will float to the surface, or the wearer may place the belt around himself or herself and adjust the strap over the various parts of the body so as to have the influence of the floats exerted upon various parts of the body, that is, in front of the waist and in the back, except that it does not apply the power of the floats over as large a portion of the body.

While walking to and from the water, the swimmer is enabled in this form of the device, to maintain the floats in a position where they will not interfere with his or her progress, by winding the cords upon the drum and the floats may be, if desired, maintained in such wound-up position after the swimmer enters the water.

As has been before stated, the cords or tapes with the float elements, render it possible for persons going to the assistance of a swimmer in distress, to aid him by grasping one of said float elements without the necessity of actually catching hold of the swimmer. This is important, for it is well known that many persons have been drowned by being grasped by drowning persons. This device is also useful as a life preserver to be carried upon launches or other craft.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that simple and efficient means are herein provided for accomplishing the objects of the invention, but while the elements shown and described are well adapted to serve the purposes for which they are intended, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise construction set forth, but includes within its purview such changes as may be made within the scope of the appended claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A device of the character described, comprising a belt adapted to be engaged with the body, a plurality of flexible members connected thereto, float elements connected to said flexible members, said flexible members having openings at intervals therein, and rigid members carried by the belt over which said openings are adapted to pass.

2. A device of the character described, comprising a belt adapted to be engaged with the body, a plurality of flexible members connected thereto, float elements connected to said flexible members, said flexible members having openings at intervals therein, rigid members carried by the belt over which said openings are adapted to pass, and means for preventing disengagement of said flexible members from said rigid members.

3. In a device of the character described, the combination with a belt adapted to encircle the body, of a plurality of flexible members connected thereto, float elements connected to said flexible members, those flexible members that are connected to the rear of the belt passing downwardly and forwardly and then between the body of the

wearer and the belt, and those flexible members in front of the belt passing over the shoulders of the wearer and then downwardly beneath said belt.

4. In a device of the character described, the combination with a belt adapted to encircle the body, of a plurality of flexible members connected thereto, float elements connected to said flexible members, those flexible members that are connected to the rear of the belt passing downwardly and forwardly and then between the body of the wearer and the belt, and those flexible members in front of the belt passing over the shoulders of the wearer and then downwardly beneath said belt, each of said flexible members having openings formed therein, rigid members carried by said belt over which said openings pass when said belt is folded back and forth upon itself, and pins adapted to pass through said rigid member to prevent the accidental disengagement of the flexible members therefrom.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

REGINA N. BRESSLER.

Witnesses:

LOUIS GROSS,
HYMAN W. DISKER.